

COMPOSITIONS FOR ENHANCING SEXUAL RESPONSIVENESS

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/445,624, which is incorporated herein in its entirety by
5 this reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a topically-administered compositions for the enhancement of sexual responsiveness in mammals.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

10 The male sexual response includes the filling of vascular channels that are empty in the flaccid penis, with blood at pressures approaching systemic levels. Erection occurs when the arteriolar and sinusoidal smooth muscles of the vessels within the corpora relax, thus lowering resistance in these channels and allowing arterial blood to surge into the penis. Exit of the arterial blood is simultaneously impeded by an increase in venous
15 resistance. Further distention of the sinusoids is restrained by the minimally distensible tunica albuginea that raises the pressure further and also restricts venous outflow. Thus, the corpora cavernosa and corpus spongiosum can be filled with blood and the penis can be erect with little demand on cardiac output. These vascular changes that occur during erection are thought to be controlled by vasoactive intestinal polypeptide, perhaps aided
20 by alpha-adrenergic blockade, acetylcholine and nitric oxide.

The female sexual response cycle is typically divided into four phases including desire, excitement, which includes physiological changes such as vasocongestion in the pelvis, vaginal lubrication, and expansion and swelling of the external genitalia, orgasm,

and resolution. Disorders of female sexual desire or response are estimated to affect from 30 to 50 percent of the adult female population. These disorders may have a variety of causes including psychogenic etiologies, anatomical disorders, drug-induced disorders, diabetes mellitus, post-surgical disorders, atherosclerosis, post-traumatic disorders, as well as endocrine etiologies. Depending upon the etiology of the disorder, effective treatment may be had by overcoming any boundaries to the physiological changes that take place during excitement including vasocongestion. Thus, in certain cases, it may be possible to enhance the female sexual response by stimulating vasocongestion.

There are a wide variety of pharmacological agents used for the enhancement of erection and treatment of sexual dysfunction and as pro-libido agents. Some examples include: serotonin receptor agonists and antagonists (see, e.g., EP 385,658; WO 94/15,920; GB 2,248,449; and GB 2,276,165), dopamine receptor agonists (see, e.g., WO 93/23,035; WO 94/21,608; Pomerantz S. M., Pharmacol. Biochem. Behav. 39:123-128, 1991; and Ferrari F. et al. Psychopharmacology 113:172-176, 1993); adrenergic receptor agonists (see, e.g., WO 95/13,072; EP 611,248; U.S. Pat. No. 5,229,387; and WO 92/11,851); inhibitors of phosphodiesterase (see, e.g., DE 4,338,948; and WO 94/28,902); histamine receptor agonists (see, e.g., U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,013,659; 4,126,670; 4,767,778; WO 91/17,146; U.S. Pat. No. 5,047,418; and EP 0,458,661); neuropeptide Y antagonists (see, e.g., WO 95/00,161); angiotensin II receptor antagonists (see, e.g., EP 577,025); cholinesterase inhibitors (see, e.g., U.S. Pat. Nos. 5,177,070; and 4,633,318); combinations of agents with the different types of biological activity (see, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 5,145,852; and WO 95/05,188); derivatives of vasoactive intestinal peptide (see, e.g.,

U.S. Pat. No. 5,147,855; EP 540,969; and EP 463,450); prostaglandins (see, e.g., WO 93/00,894; and EP 459,3770); antidepressants and antipsychotics (see, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 4,931,445; GB 2,448,449; and Naganuma et al. Clin. Exp. Pharm. Physiol. 20:177-183, 1993); nitric oxide donors (see, e.g., WO 92/21,346; DE 4,305,881; DE 4,212,582; and
5 WO 94/16,729); calcitonin gene related peptide (see, e.g., Steif, C. G. et al., Urology, 41:397-400, 1993); and androgens (see, e.g., JP 06,211,675; HU 62,473; and WO 94/16,709). Unfortunately, many or all of these pharmacological agents are associated with adverse effects including aggravation or induction of schizophrenia, serotonin syndrome, central nervous system and endocrine system dysfunction, pain, erythromosis
10 and priapism.

Accordingly there is a need in the art to identify new pharmacological agents or compositions which are useful for enhancement of the sexual response in mammals.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

One embodiment of the present invention provides a topical composition
15 comprising at least one active ingredient including methyl nicotinate, yohimbe, L-arginine in a pharmaceutically-acceptable topical vehicle. These compositions may also include as least one additional active ingredient including muira puama, catuaba, maca extract, and saw palmetto. In a preferred embodiment, the composition contains methyl nicotinate, yohimbe, L-arginine, muira puama, catuaba, maca extract, saw palmetto,
20 nettles and zinc. In another preferred embodiment, the composition contains methyl nicotinate, L-arginine, muira puama, catuaba, maca extract, nettles and zinc.

In a particularly preferred embodiment, the compositions contains between about 0.1% and about 5% methyl nicotinate, between about 5 drops and about 50 drops of yohimbe extract, between about 0.3% and about 1.5% L-arginine; between about 1 drop and about 30 drops of muira puama extract per four ounces of composition, between
5 about 1 drop and about 30 drops of catuaba extract per four ounces of composition, between about 1 drop and about 30 drops of maca extract per four ounces of composition, and between about 1 drop and about 30 drops of saw palmetto extract per four ounces of composition in a pharmaceutically-acceptable topical vehicle.

Preferably, the compositions of the present invention are formulated in a topical
10 lotion containing aloe and vitamin E.

Another preferred embodiment is a condom having an internal surface coated with one of the topical compositions of the present invention.

In another particularly preferred embodiment of the present invention the topical composition contains about 1% methyl nicotinate, about 25 drops of yohimbe extract,
15 about 8mg/cm³ of L-arginine, about 12 drops of muira puama extract, about 12 drops of catuaba extract, about 12 drops of maca extract, and about 12 drops of saw palmetto extract in a pharmaceutically-acceptable water-based topical vehicle containing aloe and vitamin E.

In another particularly preferred embodiment of the present invention, the topical
20 composition contains about 1% methyl nicotinate, about 8mg/ml of L-arginine, about 12 drops of muira puama extract, about 12 drops of catuaba extract, and about 12 drops of

maca extract, in a pharmaceutically-acceptable water-based topical vehicle containing aloe and vitamin E.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As used herein, the transitional phrases "comprising", "consisting essentially of" and "consisting of" define the scope of the appended claims with respect to what un-recited additional components, if any, are excluded from the scope of the claim. The term "comprising" is intended to be inclusive or open-ended and does not exclude additional, un-recited elements or method steps. The phrase "consisting of" excludes any element, step, or ingredient not specified in the claim. The phrase "consisting essentially of" limits the scope of a claim to the specified materials or steps and those that do not materially affect the basic and novel characteristic(s) of the claimed invention. All compositions or formulations identified herein can, in alternate embodiments, be more specifically defined by any of the transitional phrases "comprising", "consisting essentially of" and "consisting of."

The two most important denominators to the erection process and penis size are blood flow and vessel size. The compositions of the present invention are formulated with a combination of active ingredients that enhance blood flow to the area applied thereby resulting in erection or vasocongestion. The active ingredients in these compositions aid the body in the production of nitric oxide via the essential amino acid L-arginine. Additionally, these compositions function as powerful vasodilators using yohimbe, and methyl nicotinate to increase circulation, discourage clot formation, and reinforce the walls of the capillaries allowing for bigger, thicker blood vessels. These

physiological actions are believed to be useful for the treatment of sexual dysfunction resulting from circulatory disorders. Additionally, these physiological actions are believed to strengthen blood vessel walls of the penis resulting in erectile enhancement. Further, herbal ingredients in these compositions can act to promote and enhance desire
5 functioning as pro-libido agents.

The compositions of the present invention contain one or more of the following active ingredients: methyl nicotinate, yohimbe extract, panax ginseng, L-arginine, muira puama, catuaba bark, maca, and saw palmetto.

Methyl nicotinate is rubefacient and counterirritant for the relief of aches and
10 pains in muscles, tendons, and joints. When applied to the skin, methyl nicotinate causes vasodilation of the surrounding blood vessels producing a feeling of warmth. This sensation competes with, and to some extent blocks, pain in underlying muscles and joints, since both feelings are conveyed by the same nerves. The compositions of the present invention may contain between about 0.1% and about 5% methyl nicotinate.
15 Preferably, the compositions of the present invention contain between about 0.5% and about 2% methyl nicotinate. Most preferably, the compositions of the present invention contain about 1% methyl nicotinate. Suitable sources of methyl nicotinate for use in compositions of the present invention are available commercially. For example, methyl nicotinate is available commercially from Araer Chemicals.

20 Yohimbe is a vasodilator used as a sensual stimulant for healthy men and women and to treat organic impotence. Yohimbe is thought to stimulate the pelvic nerve ganglia and is thus useful for the treatment of erection problems. Effects may include increased

libido, increased sensation and increased stamina. The compositions of the present invention may include yohimbe extract prepared by extracting the yohimbe for one ounce of a plant material containing the herb into two ounces of a suitable liquid. Typically the extraction liquid is water or an alcohol. Prepared in this manner, compositions of the present invention may contain between about 5 drops and about 50 drops of the yohimbe extract in 120 cm³ of the topical composition of the present invention. Preferably, the compositions of the present invention contain between about 15 drops and about 35 drops of the yohimbe extract in four ounces of the topical composition. Most preferably, the compositions of the present invention contain about 25 drops of the yohimbe extract in four ounces of the topical composition. Herbal extracts containing yohimbe that are suitable for use in formulating compositions of the present invention are available commercially. For example, an herbal blend containing yohimbe that is suitable for use in compositions of the present invention is commercially available from Nature's Alternative.

15 Panax ginseng is an herb thought to be an immune stimulant. Ginseng has a high content of the Rg1 group of ginsenosides which cause an increase in motor activity. It acts on the adrenal and pituitary glands and is thought to improve response to stress, increase mental and physical work capacity, increase concentration and mental activity, enhance mental acuity and intellectual and physical performance and benefit the immune system. The compositions of the present invention may include ginseng extract prepared by extracting ginseng from one ounce of a plant material containing the herb into two ounces of a suitable liquid. Typically the extraction liquid is water or an alcohol.

Prepared in this manner, compositions of the present invention may contain between about 1 drop and about 30 drops of ginseng extract in four ounces of the topical composition. Preferably, the compositions of the present invention contain between about 5 drops and about 20 drops of ginseng extract in four ounces of the topical composition. Most preferably, the compositions of the present invention contain about 12 drops of ginseng extract in four ounces of the topical composition. Herbal extracts containing ginseng that are suitable for use in formulating compositions of the present invention are available commercially. For example, an herbal blend containing ginseng that is suitable for use in compositions of the present invention is commercially available from Nature's Alternative.

L-arginine is an essential amino acid with vasodilatory properties. L-arginine is the primary nutrient that allows the body to create nitric oxide, which helps regulate every physiologic function in the body. L-arginine has been shown to reduce blood pressure, improve heart function, circulation, lower cholesterol, improve immune system response, wound healing, open airways in asthma and help with male sexual function. When arginine is introduced into the body, it interacts with the enzyme nitric oxide synthase which replaces a nitrogen molecule on arginine with an oxygen atom forming nitric oxide. The compositions of the present invention may contain between about 100mg and about 400mg of L-arginine per ounce of the topical composition. Preferably, the compositions of the present invention contain between about 200mg and about 300mg of L-arginine per ounce of the topical composition. Most preferably, the compositions of the present invention contain about 240mg of L-arginine per ounce of the topical

composition. L-arginine suitable for use in formulating compositions of the present invention is available commercially. For example, a commercial source of L-arginine that is suitable for use in compositions of the present invention is commercially available from T.J. Clark.

5 Muiru puama is a botanical isolated from a tree that grows in the rain forests of Brazil. Used as a mild tonic, this herb is thought to be useful in treating the symptoms of nervous problems and disorders such as neurasthenia, neuralgia and nervous depression. The compositions of the present invention may include muira puama extract prepared by extracting one ounce of muira puama plant material into two ounces of a suitable liquid.

10 Typically the extraction liquid is an alcohol. Prepared in this manner, compositions of the present invention may contain between about 1 drop and about 30 drops of muira puama extract in four ounces of the topical composition. Preferably, the compositions of the present invention contain between about 5 drops and about 20 drops of muira puama extract in four ounces of the topical composition. Most preferably, the compositions of

15 the present invention contain about 12 drops of muira puama extract in four ounces of the topical composition. Herbal extracts of muira puama that are suitable for use in formulating compositions of the present invention are available commercially. A concentrated extract that is suitable for use in compositions of the present invention is commercially available from Raintree Nutrition.

20 Catuaba is a botanical extracted from the plant species *Juniperis brasilinsis* native to Brazil. It is reported to have benefits in relieving insomnia from hypertension, restless sleeping patterns and in helping to arrest failing memory. The compositions of the present

invention may include catuaba extract prepared by extracting one ounce of catuaba bark into two ounces of a suitable liquid. Typically the extraction liquid is water or an alcohol. Prepared in this manner, compositions of the present invention may contain between about 1 drop and about 30 drops of catuaba extract in four ounces of the topical composition. Preferably, the compositions of the present invention contain between about 5 drops and about 20 drops of catuaba extract in four ounces of the topical composition. Most preferably, the compositions of the present invention contain about 12 drops of catuaba extract in four ounces of the topical composition. Herbal extracts containing catauba that are suitable for use in formulating compositions of the present invention are available commercially. For example, a catuaba bark extract suitable for use in compositions of the present invention is commercially available from Raintree Nutrition.

Maca is a plant also known as *Lepidium meyenii*. Peruvian maca root is a vegetable root or tuber related to the potato and the Mexican wild yam. It contains amino acids, complex carbohydrates, vitamins B1, B2, B12, C and E and minerals, including calcium, phosphorus, zinc, magnesium and iron. This herb has traditionally been used to increase energy, vitality, stamina and endurance in athletes, promote mental clarity, as an aphrodisiac for both men and women, for male impotence, menstrual irregularities and female hormone imbalances, including menopause. The compositions of the present invention may include maca extract prepared by extracting one ounce of maca plant root material into two ounces of a suitable liquid. Typically the extraction liquid is water or an alcohol. Prepared in this manner, compositions of the present invention may contain

between about 1 drop and about 30 drops of maca extract in four ounces of the topical composition. Preferably, the compositions of the present invention contain between about 5 drops and about 20 drops of maca extract in four ounces of the topical composition. Most preferably, the compositions of the present invention contain about 12
5 drops of maca extract in four ounces of the topical composition. Maca plant material suitable for use in preparing extracts for use in formulating compositions of the present invention are available commercially. For example, bulk maca plant material that is suitable for use in compositions of the present invention is commercially available from Raintree Nutrition.

10 Saw Palmetto is an urinary antiseptic also known as *Serenoa repens*. This herb acts to tone and strengthen the male reproductive system and is used in cases of enlarged prostate gland. The compositions of the present invention may include saw palmetto extract prepared by extracting the saw palmetto from one ounce of a plant material containing the herb into two ounces of a suitable liquid. Typically the extraction liquid is
15 water or an alcohol. Prepared in this manner, compositions of the present invention may contain between about 1 drop and about 30 drops of saw palmetto extract in four ounces of the topical composition. Preferably, the compositions of the present invention contain between about 5 drops and about 20 drops of saw palmetto extract in four ounces of the topical composition. Most preferably, the compositions of the present invention contain
20 about 12 drops of saw palmetto extract in four ounces of the topical composition. Herbal extracts containing saw palmetto that are suitable for use in formulating compositions of the present invention are available commercially. For example, a saw palmetto extract

that is suitable for use in compositions of the present invention is commercially available from Nature's Alternative.

The compositions of the present invention can optionally include as active ingredients nettles and/or zinc. The components are widely available commercially.

5 The compositions of the present invention may contain other ingredients that are not physiologically active but serve to enhance the pharmaceutical elegance of the final topical composition. For example, the compositions of the present invention may contain excipients such as lactose, dextrose, sucrose, sorbitol, mannitol, starch, gum acacia, calcium silicate, microcrystalline cellulose, polyvinylpyrrolidinone, cellulose, water,
10 syrup, and methyl cellulose. Additionally, the compositions of the present invention may include lubricating agents such as talc, magnesium stearate and mineral oil, wetting agents, emulsifying and suspending agents, preserving agents such as methyl- and propylhydroxybenzoates, sweetening agents or flavoring agents.

 The compositions of the present invention may be formulated in any
15 pharmaceutically acceptable topical vehicle that does not interact adversely with the active ingredients or, in the case of the embodiment which includes a coating of the compositions applied to one surface of a condom, does not interact adversely with the condom materials. For example, compositions of the present invention may be formulated in water or oil based topical vehicles. These compositions can include
20 lanolin, aquaphor, methylcellulose and derivatives thereof, petroleum based vehicles, aloe and the like. Preferably, the compositions of the present invention are formulated in a topical, water-based vehicle containing aloe and vitamin E. Suitable topical vehicles

containing aloe and vitamin E are available commercially. For example, a suitable topical vehicle for use in formulating compositions of the present invention containing aloe and vitamin E is available from T. C. Laboratories (Treasures Company).

Preferably, the topical compositions of the present invention contain a mixture of
5 distilled water, aloe barbadensis leaf juice, helianthus annus (sunflower) seed oil, stearic acid, glycine soja (soybean) oil, cetyl alcohol NF, emulsifying wax, olea Europaea (olive) fruit oil, glycerin, palmitic acid, cymbopogon schoenanthus (lemongrass) oil, mentha piperita (peppermint) oil, tocopherol, denatured alcohol, methyl salicylate, aloe barbadensis leaf extract, menthol, fragrance, camella sinensis (green tea) leaf extract,
10 rosmarinus officinalis (rosemary) leaf extract, citrus grandis (grapefruit) seed extract, lecithin, sodium bicarbonate, ascorbyl palmitate, polysorbate 20, methylparaben, propylparaben, urtica dioica (nettles) extract or zinc oxide, having a pH of between about 5.0 and about 8.

The compositions of the present invention are formulated for transdermal delivery
15 of the active ingredients following topical administration to the penis or labia majora and minora pudendi. A small amount of the compositions of the present invention is applied topically directly to the penis or labia majora and minora pudendi. Alternatively, in a preferred embodiment, the composition may be packaged as a coating on the interior surface of a condom. Thereby, upon use of the condom, the composition is applied
20 topically to the penis.

EXAMPLES

Example 1

A preferred embodiment of the topical compositions of the present invention consists essentially of the following ingredients of a quality and purity suitable for topical application to a mammal:

Active ingredient	Amount per 30g \pm 10%
methyl nicotinate	0.3 g
yohimbe extract	25 drops
L-arginine	240 mg
muira puama extract	12 drops
catuaba bark extract	12 drops
maca extract	12 drops
saw palmetto	12 drops

5 These active ingredients were formulated in a base for topical administration in a pharmaceutically-acceptable topical vehicle containing distilled water, aloe barbadensis leaf juice, helianthus annuus (sunflower) seed oil, stearic acid, glycine soja (soybean) oil, cetyl alcohol NF, emulsifying wax, olea Europaea (olive) fruit oil, glycerin, palmitic acid, cymbopogon schoenanthus (lemongrass) oil, mentha piperita (peppermint) oil,

10 tocopherol, denatured alcohol, methyl salicylate, aloe barbadensis leaf extract, camella sinensis (green tea) leaf extract, rosmarinus officinalis (rosemary) leaf extract, citrus grandis (grapefruit) seed extract, lecithin, sodium bicarbonate, ascorbyl palmitate, polysorbate 20, methylparaben, propylparaben, urtica dioica (nettles) extract and zinc oxide, having a pH of about 6.0.

15 Example 2

A preferred embodiment of the topical compositions of the present invention consists essentially of the following ingredients of a quality and purity suitable for topical application to a mammal:

Active ingredient	Amount per 30g \pm 10%
methyl nicotinate	0.3 g
L-arginine	240 mg
muira puama extract	12 drops
catuaba bark extract	12 drops
maca extract	12 drops

These active ingredients were formulated in a base for topical administration in a pharmaceutically-acceptable topical vehicle containing distilled water, aloe barbadensis leaf juice, helianthus annus (sunflower) seed oil, stearic acid, glycine soja (soybean) oil, cetyl alcohol, emulsifying wax, olea europaea (olive) fruit oil, glycerin, palmitic acid, fragrance, tocopherol, denatured alcohol, methyl salicylate, aloe barbadensis leaf extract, camella sinensis (green tea) leaf extract, rosmarinus officinalis (rosemary) leaf extract, citrus grandis (grapefruit) seed extract, lecithin, sodium bicarbonate, ascorbyl palmitate, polysorbate 20, menthol, methylparaben, propylparaben, urtica dioica (nettles) extract and zinc oxide, having a pH of about 6.0.

The foregoing description of the present invention has been presented for purposes of illustration and description. Furthermore, the description is not intended to limit the invention to the form disclosed herein. Consequently, variations and modifications commensurate with the above teachings, and the skill or knowledge of the relevant art, are within the scope of the present invention. The embodiment described hereinabove is further intended to explain the best mode known for practicing the invention and to enable others skilled in the art to utilize the invention in such, or other, embodiments and with various modifications required by the particular applications or

uses of the present invention. It is intended that the appended claims be construed to include alternative embodiments to the extent permitted by the prior art.